

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. For the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 2 and 11, and amends claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, and 19.

In the Office Action mailed, claims 1-2, 5, 10-11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wiser et al. (U.S. Patent 6,385,596). Claims 3-4 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiser et al. Claims 6 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiser et al. in view of Sauerwine (U.S. Patent 5,421,620). Claims 7-8 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiser et al. in view of Vigneaux et al. (U.S. Patent 5,852,435). Claims 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiser et al. in view of Candelore (U.S. Patent 6,057,872). Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sparks et al. (U.S. Patent 6,298,385). To the extent this rejection might still be applied to claims presently pending in this application, it is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method for providing encoded media content over a network. A request to encode one or more media program files is received from a client, for encoding in one or more selected encoding formats. After the encoding occurs, if the client

requests hosting services, the host server is configured to allow selective access by customers, as determined by the client.

The Wiser reference, entitled "Secure OnLine Music Distribution System," discloses certain aspects of an online music distribution system for secure delivery of data over a public communications network. The Wiser system includes a "Content Manager" that allows "only a particular user to access the media for playback," and "stores details of each transaction in the transactions database 130. A "Delivery Server" then delivers a requested media data file to a user's client system. (See Wiser at col. 9, lines 39-66). The data on the server is encrypted in an "ISO X.509 format."

As distinct from the teaching in Wiser, the claimed invention is directed to a hosting system that uniquely configurable by each client, for different media programs. As a first matter, as recited in claim 1, "for each media program file to be encoded," there is a step of "receiving a selection of encoding formats for encoding the media program file." Wiser does not teach such a selection of encoding formats. In Wiser, the "media data chunk" is processed for different quality levels, different sampling rates, and compression levels, but does not provide for client-selection of different formats. (See Wiser at col. 7, lines 4-16.)

Secondly, claim 1 also provides for configuring the hosting server "to allow selective access by visitors to the one or more encoded files over the network, as determined by the client." Wiser does not provide any disclosure of a client-selectable access system. While Wiser discloses a system in which consumers are provided with a private key to receive encrypted information, this is used so that only purchasers receive purchases of the media data. There is no

Serial No.: 09/502,627
Art Unit: 2174

Attorney's Docket No.: LET-103 R2
Page 12

teaching in Wiser of having the client, who requests hosting of a file, to determine how the file can be selectively accessed by visitors.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

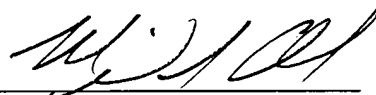
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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:

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